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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9460  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 3119  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 6624  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 9800  
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 8877  
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY 6905  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA PRIORITY 5880  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 1211  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 2693  
RUEHKS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 9365  
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI PRIORITY 0653  
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI PRIORITY 7584  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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SENSITIVE  
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STATE FOR E, EEB AND EAP/J  
NSC FOR JLOI, DRUSSELL  
USTR FOR AUSTR WCUTLER, MBEEMAN, AND DLEE

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TAGS: [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [PGOV](#) [JA](#)  
SUBJECT: MINISTER HARAGUCHI RAISES POSTAL REFORM WITH  
AMBASSADOR

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. CONTAINS BUSINESS SENSITIVE  
INFORMATION.

¶1. (SBU) In a wide-ranging meeting with the Ambassador, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Kazuhiro Haraguchi said the Japan Post group companies need freedom of management in the face of losses and decreasing deposits. He said the organization would be reorganized from three to five companies. Haraguchi stated that postal service is a common good for all citizens, but he characterized Japan's current system as out of date. Although noting historically, postal assets have been put into Japanese government bonds, he mentioned the possibility of diversifying into U.S. treasuries to promote greater growth. Haraguchi proposed discussing potential private sector tie-ups with U.S. firms and suggested possibly forming a joint task force to explore strategic direction and future business models to improve the profitability of both private sector companies and Japan Post group companies.

¶2. (SBU) Haraguchi signaled a desire to continue pursuing postal reform in an open and transparent manner. This continues the trend of senior DPJ officials engaging with the USG and U.S. industry as they move forward with their reform program. Haraguchi said he hopes for a "common understanding" and cooperation with the USG. His concept of a task force was vague, and he offered no details. The Ambassador expressed interest in learning more about Haraguchi's ideas on this.  
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